



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

**Busan, Republic of Korea  
8-16 August 2018**

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**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION  
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS**

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**WCPFC-SC14-AR/CCM-14**

**NAURU**

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**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION  
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS  
ON THE CALENDAR YEAR 2017**

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**NAURU**

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating the provision of scientific data to the Commission by 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	[ YES]
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**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION  
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS  
ON THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015**

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## **1. ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION**

### **1.1 Fishery Characteristics**

- a) Nauru's Offshore Fishery as in previous years is dominated by the Distant Water Fishing Nation's (DWFNs) Purse Seines.
- b) The primary target of the DWFN vessels are Skipjack (*Katsuwonus Pelamis*), Yellowfin (*Thunnus Albacares*) and other tuna like species which are projected for the foreign canneries.
- c) The majority size of the vessels are between 1001 – 1500 gross tons and are licensed either on a bilateral or multilateral agreement.
- d) No Longline vessels were licensed in 2017.
- e) Nauru does not have a commercial fishery of any kind under its flag or by charter arrangements active in the WCPFC convention area in 2017.
- f) The Artisanal Fishery encompassed mainly of motorized skiffs and canoes who target tuna and coastal pelagic species that are generally free-school or FAD aggregated. Catches are essentially for subsistence, barter and commercial on a minor scale.

## 2. Offshore Catch Estimates

The 3 major tuna species caught in Nauru's offshore fishery as in previous years is made up of skipjack (*SKJ*), yellowfin (*YFT*) and bigeye (*BET*).

In 2017, there is a slight decrease of total catches by approximately 9,000 MT (*table 1*) compared to the catches of 2016. The decline is probably affected by a number of reasons i.e., the 82% coverage of logsheet, data validation issues and the significant reduced effort by a DWFN fleet.

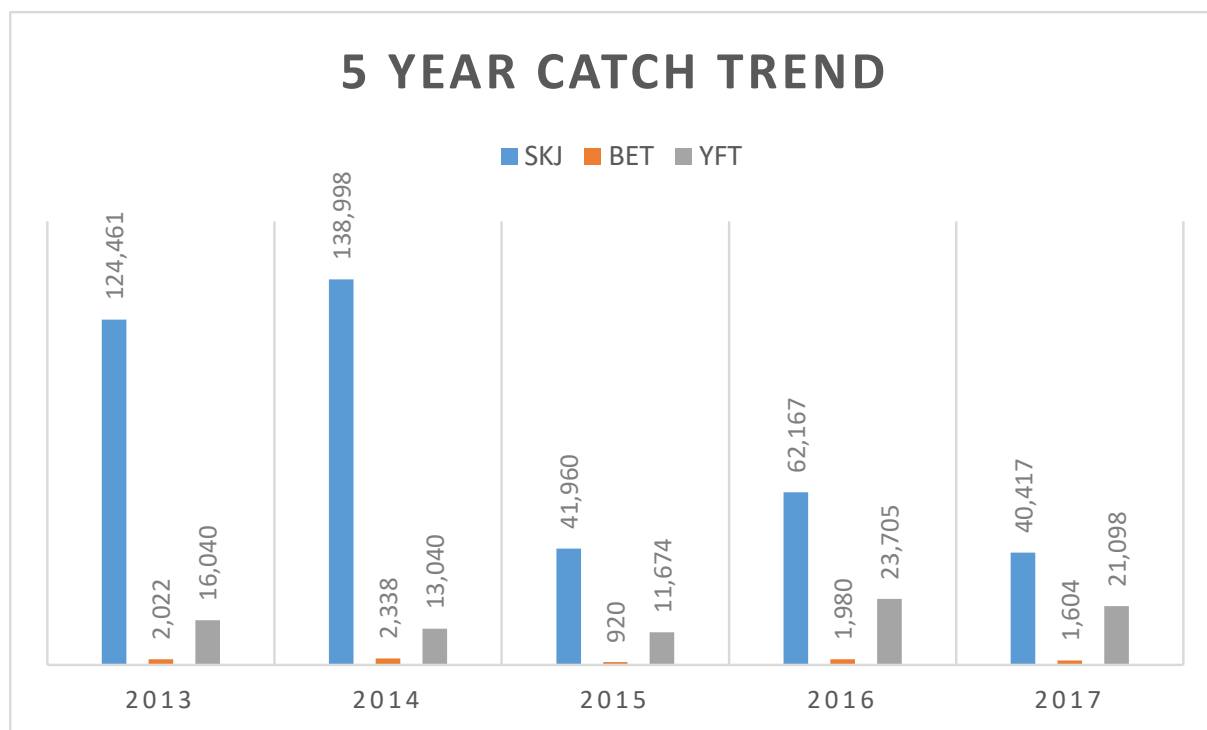
In spite of the decrease, Nauru's EEZ for the past five years have yielded an average total of more than 100,000 metric tons of tuna to the vessels of the distant water fishing nations.

The average catches for the past 3 years is SKJ at 48,181mt, BET at 1,501mt and YFT at 18,826mt.

(Note: the figures are according to SPC estimates derived from logsheets which includes multilaterally-licensed vessels as well as bilateral vessels licensed to fish in Nauru according to the Palau Arrangement Vessel Day Management Scheme).

YEAR	SKJ	BET	YFT	TOTAL
2013	124,461	2,022	16,040	142,732
2014	138,998	2,338	13,040	154,679
2015	41,960	920	11,674	54,883
2016	62,167	1,980	23,705	88,101
<b>2017</b>	<b>40,417</b>	<b>1,604</b>	<b>21,098</b>	<b>79,152</b>

**Table 1:** Tuna catches in Nauru's EEZ by all DWFN fleets for the past 5 years. **Source:** Raised logsheet data collected by Nauru held in the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database (TUFMAN 2) at SPC. (2017 Catches are provisional)



**Figure 1:** Trend of total catches over a 5 year period by foreign fleets active in Nauru's EEZ from 2013 to 2017.

### 3. Foreign Fleet and Licensing Structure

In 2017, as in previous years, the Distant Water Fishing Nations (DWFNs) dominated the commercial fleet licensed to operate in Nauru's EEZ.

Nauru licensed 246 DWFN vessels - 227 purse seines with 17 supporting tankers (*TK*) and 2 fish carriers (*FC*).

Below is a detailed purse seine (*table 2*), support vessels (*table 5*) and historical (*tables 3-PS and 4-LL*) analysis of the DWFN fleets by flag and size.

Majority of the vessels (139) are between the 1001 -1500 GRT; 22 vessels are between 0 to 1000 GRT and 80 vessels or more including support vessels are in the 1500 GRT plus category.

<b>2017 FOREIGN FLAGGED VESSELS</b>						
<b>FLAG</b>	<b>GEAR</b>	<b>NO OF VESSELS</b>	<b>0-500 GRT</b>	<b>501-1000 GRT</b>	<b>1001-1500 GRT</b>	<b>1500+ GRT</b>
CHINA (CN)	PS	13	-	1	5	7
JAPAN (JP)	PS	29	-	-	25	4
FSMA (KI)	PS	4	-	-	1	3
FSMA (FM)	PS	20	-	3	4	13
FSMA (MH)	PS	8	-	-	7	1
FSMA (PG)	PS	20	-	1	13	6
FSMA (CN)	PS	5	-	-	3	2
FSMA (SB)	PS	5	-	-	4	1
FSMA (PH)	PS	23	2	6	14	1
FSMA (TV)	PS	1	-	-	-	1
PILLIPHINES (PH)	PS	8	-	-	8	-
KOREA (KR)	PS	26	-	6	16	4
TAIWAN (TW)	PS	30	-	3	25	2
UST (US)	PS	34	-	-	14	20
VANUATU (TV)	PS	1	-	-	-	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>227</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>66</b>

**Table.2:** *Bilateral and Multilateral Fishing Vessels (by Flag) Licensed by Nauru in 2017.*

#### 4. HISTORICAL LICENSE STRUCTURE

<b>PURSE SEINE VESSELS</b>						
<b>YEAR</b>		<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>FLAG</b>						
<b>CN</b>		12	12	12	12	<b>13</b>
<b>F S M A</b>	<b>CN</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>5</b>
	<b>FM</b>	9	9	12	12	<b>20</b>
	<b>KI</b>	7	11	11	11	<b>4</b>
	<b>MH</b>	10	12	12	12	<b>8</b>
	<b>PH</b>	4	0	0	0	<b>23</b>
	<b>PG</b>	32	36	41	41	<b>20</b>
	<b>SB</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>5</b>
	<b>TV</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>8</b>
<b>JP</b>		32	30	32	30	<b>29</b>
<b>KR</b>		28	26	26	25	<b>26</b>
<b>MH</b>		0	0	0	5	<b>7</b>
<b>NZ</b>		0	4	2	0	<b>0</b>
<b>PH</b>		0	3	2	0	<b>8</b>
<b>SUB REG</b>		0	0	0	7	<b>0</b>
<b>TW</b>		33	29	33	29	<b>30</b>
<b>UST</b>		29	40	35	35	<b>34</b>
<b>V U</b>	<b>TV</b>	1	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
	<b>TW</b>	3	3	3	0	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>241</b>

Table 3: Purse Seine vessels licensed by Nauru for past 5 years.

<b>LONGLINE VESSELS</b>			
<b>FLAG</b>	<b>CN</b>	<b>JP</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>YEAR</b>			
<b>2013</b>	0	3	<b>3</b>
<b>2014</b>	4	6	<b>10</b>
<b>2015</b>	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>2016</b>	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>2017</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>

Table 4: Longline vessels licensed by Nauru for past 5 years

<b>SUPPORT VESSELS (SV)</b>					
<b>FLAG</b>	<b>NO OF VESSELS</b>	<b>0-500 GRT</b>	<b>501-1000 GRT</b>	<b>1001-1500 GRT</b>	<b>1500+ GRT</b>
<b>KOREA (TK)</b>	6				6
<b>COOK (TK)</b>	5				5
<b>KIRIBATI (TK)</b>	3				3
<b>MARSHALLS (TK)</b>	2				2
<b>TUVALU (TK)</b>	1				1
<b>PANAMA (FC)</b>	2				2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>				<b>19</b>

**Table.5:** Support Vessels (TK – Tanker; FC – Fish Carrier) Licensed to Nauru in 2017

## 5. Artisanal fleet

Nauru's artisanal fleet is encompassed of small motorized skiffs and canoes that are fully owned and operated by local fishermen for either subsistence, barter or commercial at a small scale.

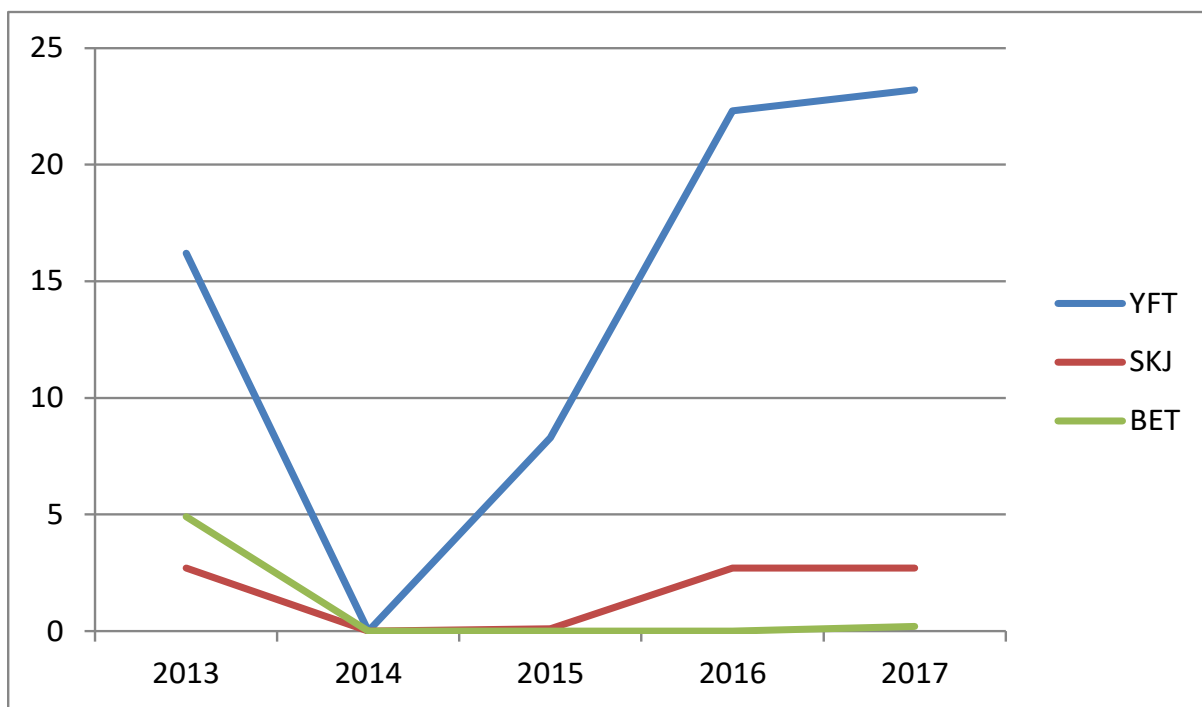
There are 112 active boats and canoes in Nauru and motorized skiffs make up the bulk of the fleet.

The process of collecting data is through random interviews of fishermen by Coastal personnel assigned to the 3 main landing sites; **Gabab** Channel and **Anibare** Community Boat Harbor (commonly used by motorized skiffs) and **Aiwo** Boat Harbor (regular landing site for canoe fishers).

Nauru regrets to report that figures for the 2014 data are unavailable. Data were lost and all efforts of retrieving it were unsuccessful.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Artisanal Catch Estimates (MT)</b>			
	<b>Yellowfin</b>	<b>Skipjack</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>Total</b>
2013	16.2	2.7	4.9	23.8
2014	0	0	0	0
2015	8.3	0.1	0.0	8.4
2016	22.3	2.7	0.0	25.0
<b>2017</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>26.1</b>

**Table 6:** Source: TAILS - Artisanal Coastal Fisheries survey of raised estimates based on Coastal reports held at SPC's Tuna Fisheries Database System.



**Figure 2:** 5 year trend for total Artisanal raised catches (MT) in Nauru from 2013 - 2017. (2014 catch not available).

## 6. Socioeconomic

The revenue derived from fishing licenses of each fiscal year continues to provide the bulk of non-aid income for Nauru's financial state budgets.

**Nauru's Observer Program (NROB)** is the most notable development made from the offshore fishing industry.

The NROB has a total of thirty five (35) PIRFO Certified Observers; five (5) PIRFO De-briefers (Part A), and one (1) PIRFO Certified De-briefer and Trainer. The program also has thirteen (13) **MSC** certified Observers.

In 2017, the Assistant Observer Coordinator was requested by the PNAO to support and assist at the office for three (3) months.

Nauru Observer Program total trips for 2017:

- **National** - **17**
- **FFA** - **3**
- **PNA** - **25**

The Artisanal fishery still remains the most reliable source of fish protein diet and minor income generator for Nauru's local community.



## **7. Research and Statistics**

Nauru Fishery and Marine Resources Authority's priority is the continuous up skilling of its personnel through various regional capacity building workshops, attachments and trainings.

Nauru, like most other Pacific countries has encompassed the *TUFMAN 2* system and the "TAILS" app as its' primary tuna data management system and artisanal data collecting tool.

Nauru highly commends the unrelenting efforts of SPC/OFP and FFA in developing efficient tools for tuna data collection, monitoring and management.

Nauru is grateful to the WCPFC, SPC and FFA for their continued assistance throughout 2017 through financial support, technical assistance and capacity building programs.

Nauru also acknowledges the ongoing support and assistance provided by AusAID through Australia's DFAT which is still focused on developing Nauru's Coastal Fisheries Management structures.




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**ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1**

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**Specific information to be provided in Part 1 as required by CMMs<sup>1</sup>**

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**24 March 2018**

CMM 2005-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 4	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> – <i>Nauru is not a Flag State</i>
CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> – <i>Nauru is not a Flag State</i>
CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> – <i>Nauru is not a Flag State</i>
CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> – <i>Nauru is not a Flag State</i>
CMM 2010-07 [Sharks], Para 4	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> – <i>Nauru is not a Flag State</i>
CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 4	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> – <i>Nauru is not a Flag State</i>
CMM 2011-04 [Oceanic whitetip sharks], Para 3	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> – <i>Nauru is not a Flag State</i>
CMM 2012-04 [Whale sharks], Para 06	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> – <i>Nauru is not a Flag State</i>
CMM 2012-07 [Seabirds], Para 9 <i>Applies until 1 Jan 2017 (see CMM 2015-03 below)</i>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> – <i>Nauru is not a Flag State</i>
CMM 2013-08 [Silky sharks], Para 3	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> – <i>Nauru is not a Flag State</i>
Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b))	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> – <i>Nauru is not a Flag State</i>
CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> – <i>Nauru is not a Flag State</i>
CMM 2015-03 [Seabirds] Para 9	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> – <i>Nauru is not a Flag State</i>
CMM 2012-07 / CMM 2015-03: [Seabirds]	<b>NO INTERACTION WITH SEABIRDS AVAILABLE TO REPORT</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions by the Commission, as of WCPFC13 (Dec 2016)